

Message Text

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LONDON FOR SEITZ

E.O. 11652 NA
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, GH
SUBJ: GHANA FREEZES ASSETS OF POLITICAL OPPONENTS

REF: ACCRA 4715

1. LOCAL PRESS, CITING GOG GAZETTE NOTICE PUBLISHED JUNE 13, REPORTS THAT GOG HAS FROZEN ASSETS OF 24 PERSONS WHO ARE EITHER IN JAIL, ARE BEING SOUGHT BY POLICE, OR WHO ARE BEING INVESTIGATED AS POLITICAL DISSIDENTS. MANY ARE LEADERS OF PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT FOR FREEDOM AND JUSTICE (PMFJ), A GROUP WHICH OPPOSED HEAD OF STATE ACHEAMPONG IN DISPUTED MARCH 30 REFERENDUM. OTHERS BELONG TO FRONT FOR THE PREVENTION OF DICTATORSHIP (ANOTHER ANTI-ACHEAMPONG GROUP), WERE SENIOR OFFICIALS UNDER BUSIA REGIME (WHICH ACHEAMPONG OVERTHREW IN 1972), OR ARE ACADEMICS CRITICAL OF ACHEAMPONG.

2. FOLLOWING PERSONS ARE NAMED: G.W. AMARTEIFIO, DR. JONES OFORI-ATTA, JOE LARTEY, NANA AKUFFO ADDO, J.F.S. HANSEN, LT. GEN. A.A. AFRIFA (REF.), DR. J.K.

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ABOAGYE, R.R. AMPONSAH, N.Y.B. ADADE, KWABENA ADDAI-MENSAH, HARUNA ESSEKU, ESSEL-COBBAH, K. BAAH, S. KRAKUE, KWAME BARTELS, DR. KOFI AWONOOR, DR. KOFI AGYEMAN, ABDULAI YANA, ALEX ASANTE-TANNOR, DR. J. GORKER, MR. ASIBERE, W. AMARTEIFIO, O.M.K. POKU AND DR. HANSON.

3. BEST KNOW OF ABOVE ARE LT.GEN. A.A. AFRIFA (LEADER OF PMFJ); G.W. AMARTEIFIO, DR. JONES OFORI-ATTA, NANA AKUFFO ADDO AND J.F.S. HANSEN (ALL PMFJ ACTIVISTS), AND DR. KOFI AWONOR (INTERNATIONALLY-KNOWN POET AND LECTURER AT UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST). ABOAGYE, AMPONSAH, ADADE, ADDAI-MENSAH, ESSEKU, ESSEL-COBBAH, BAAH AND KRAKUE ARE ALL IDENTIFIED IN PRESS AS MINISTERS OR JUNIO MINISTERS IN BUSIA REGIME.

4. COMMENT: FREEZING ASSETS IS OFTEN A ROUTINE PART OF GOG INVESTIGATIONS INTO ALLEGED WRONGDOING. IN THIS CASE, HOWEVER, IT APPEARS TO REPRESENT SOME HARDENING OF ACHEAMONG'S ATTITUDE TOWARD HIS OPPONENTS. ALTHOUGH HE TOLD US ON JUNE 6 (REFTEL) THAT 8 POLITICAL PRISONERS HAVE ALREADY BEEN RELEASED AND OTHERS MAY BE FREED SOON IF REVIEW OF THEIR CASES SHOWS THEY ARE INNOCENT, ONLY TWO OF THESE 8 DETAINEES ARE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN RELEASED THUS FAR. ACHEAMONG'S DECISION TO FREEZE OPPONENTS' ASSETS PROBABLY REPRESENTS HIS GROWING IMPATIENCE WITH THEIR UNREPENTANT OPPOSITION TO HIS CONDUCT OF MARCH 30 REFERENDUM AND THEIR DEMANDS THAT HE STEP DOWN IMMEDIATELY IN FAVOR OF A CARETAKER CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT.
HOLMES
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NNN

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